THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). The ICMR had conducted a collaborative study on blindness in 1971-74 in 7 different centres representing 7 different regions of the country for children less than 7 years of age. Their findings are as under:

Persons covered: 81,100

Blind persons: 61

Prevalence rate per

1000 populati 0.75

(c) and (d). As per expert advice, severe vitamin 'A' deficiency being an important cause of blindness among small children, a programme of prophylaxis against blindness due to vitamin 'A' deficiency among children was started. Under this programme so far, intensive doses of vitamin 'A' (2 lakh international units) are given to children in age group 1-5 years at six month intervals. However, as pe expert advice, the schedule is being revised to give are does of vitamin 'A' (1 lakh international units) at 9 month of age and subsequently 2 lakh international units every six months upto 3 years to age.

Rehabilitation of Leprosy Patients

1839. SHRI. B. DEVARAJAN:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Leprosy Rehabilitation and Promotion Units, State-wise;

(b) whether some voluntary organisations are also engaged in medico-social and vocational rehabilitation of leprosy patients; and

(c) if so, the number thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) There are 25 Leprosy Rehabilitation and Promotion Units. The State-wise distribution is given in the State attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme, 16 leprosy Rehabilitation Promotion Units functioning in voluntary organisation sector are engaged in rehabilitation of Leprosy affected persons. The State-Wise distribution is at Annexure.

STATEMENT

National leprosy Eradication Programme

Number of LRPUS Units

Sl.No	*State/UT*	*Total No. LRPUs*	*V.O Sector LRPU*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0

Sl.No	*State/UT*	*Total No. LRPUs*	*V.O Sector LRPU*
3.	Assam	0	0
4.	Bihar	2	2
5.	Goa	0	0
6.	Gujarat	0	0
7.	Haryana	2	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0
9.	J & K	0	0
10.	Karnataka	6	3
11.	Kerala	1	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	0
13.	Maharashtra	2	2
14.	Manipur	1	1
15.	Meghalaya	0	0
16.	Mizoram	1	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0
18.	Orissa	2	1
19.	Punjab	0	0
20.	Rajasthan	0	0
21.	Sikkim	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	1	0
23.	Tripura	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1

Sl.No	*State/UT*	*Total No. LRPUs*	*V.O Sector LRPU*
25.	West Bengal	1	1
26.	A & N Island	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0
28.	D & N Haveli	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0
30.	Delhi	0	0
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	2	1
		25	16

Production of Firewood

1840. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGARAHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is likely to face a firewood crisis by 2000 AL due to decrease in production of firewood;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) At the current rate of population increase, there is likely to be a large gap between production and demand of firewood by 2000 A.L.

(b) The Government of India have taken following steps:

(1) A massive afforestation programme is under operation under the 20 Point Programme, and afforestation over 8.8, million hectares has been carried out.

(2) Fuelwood saving devices such as fuel efficient chullahs, Vanjyoti and improved crematoria are being encouraged by providing subsidies/financial incentives.

(3) Financial incentives/subsidies are also being provided to encourage and popularise the use of bio-gas, solar cooker, electric crematoria, etc.

Recovery of Railway Dues from SEBs

1841. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: